



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building  
55 Pleasant Street, Room 312  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

*603/225-1552*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release  
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**Thomas P. Colantuono  
United States Attorney  
Contact: Joseph N. Laplante  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
(603) 225-1562 x 230**

**DEA "CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVE" TASK FORCE**

**METHUEN MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL COCAINE CONSPIRACY CHARGES**

**Re: United States v. Renzo PIMENTEL-SOTO**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and DEA Special Agent in Charge of the New England Field Division Mark R. Trouville announced that RENZO PIMENTEL-SOTO, DOB 5/20/70, formerly of Methuen, Massachusetts, was convicted on February 11, 2004 of federal cocaine conspiracy charges.

PIMENTEL-SOTO entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr. to an indictment charging him with conspiring to distribute a half-kilo of cocaine in New Hampshire between 1998 and 2002. Judge DiClerico detained PIMENTEL-SOTO without bail pending his sentencing hearing scheduled for May 17, 2004. PIMENTEL-SOTO faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years imprisonment, and potential maximum sentences of 40 years imprisonment, as well as deportation to his native country, the Dominican Republic.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case demonstrates our Office's commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, and especially those who transport drugs into New Hampshire's southern tier over the Massachusetts border. This case is a prime example of the effectiveness of DEA's Cross Border Initiative. I will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts."

The conviction resulted from an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration's Cross Border Initiative (CBI), a Task Force based in Lowell, Massachusetts made up of federal agents from the DEA, FBI, IRS, and local police departments from northern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire including the Salem, New Hampshire Police Department. The CBI's primary focus is drug trafficking over the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDEF").